

EVERGREEN MEETING NOTES - NOVEMBER 18, 2008



On November 18, 2008, City of Auburn staff met with residents of the Evergreen Neighborhood at Lakeland Hills in the Lakeland Community Center to discuss their interest in establishing a Block Watch.

Staff in Attendance: MAYOR PETE LEWIS, ASST. POLICE CHIEF LARRY MILLER, POLICE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OFFICER ANDY GOULD, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER DUANNA RICHARDS, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CERT COORDINATOR REBECCA ADAMS AND TRAFFIC ENGINEER PABLO PARA

Community Members in Attendance: ASST. SUPERINTENDENT FOR K-12 STUDENT LEARNING FOR THE AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT ROD LUKE, AARON BOEGER, ART TOMSHA, BENYONG ZHANG, BOB & MENCHU SPIRES, CHRISTI LEE, CYNTHIA EMERY, EVAN INKSTER, G MOESCH, JEFFREY P. LAYACAN, JIM MAURUS, JOE HOCHWALT, JOHN SPURR, JON KULJU, KAREN LARSEN, KHEM SINGH, KIM GILSERTH, MARK CAPESTANY, MERI NINTEMAN, MICHELE TANG, ROB & PAULA DICKEY

Welcome and Introductions:

- Mayor Lewis opened the meeting by welcoming neighbors and with City staff introductions. Rod Luke, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Student Learning for the Auburn School District, talked about developing a new three-year strategic plan focused on district improvements and improving learning for all students. The School District is holding community forums and sending out surveys in your utility bills for parents, students and community members; these surveys will be available both electronically and in hard copy formats. Mayor Lewis then facilitated the audience participation portion of the meeting and discussed a variety of topics, including, but not limited to the following sections.
 - Mayor's Update -- residents were encouraged to sign up for the Mayor's Update, an e-newsletter Mayor Lewis sends out every Friday about what's taken place in the City during the week, upcoming events, etc. He also uses the listserv to send out alerts about road closures, emergencies, etc. as a way to keep the community informed. Since this is a listserv, if you decide you don't want to continue receiving it you can unsubscribe at any time.
 - Pierce Transit will operate a shuttle service (Route 497) with direct service between Lakeland Hills and the Auburn Commuter Rail Station with six morning and six evening trips each weekday starting February 9, 2009.

General Questions/Comments

- ***Is parking going to be expanded at the train station?***
It has always been intended that Sound Transit build another 450-stall parking garage on the C Street side of the railroad tracks; however, they will need additional funding to make it happen. Sound Transit has stated they have no funds and are including the parking garage in a new ballot measure this fall. There's another Sound Transit garage proposed for Sumner that would be located at the bottom of Lake Tapps Parkway, if successful it would take pressure off Auburn's downtown parking garage. King County Metro has also talking to the City about a project that would add more parking downtown.
- ***A family at the corner of Perry and 50th owns pitbulls; what is the City's ordinance for pitbull owners?***
Owners of pitbulls and certain other breeds that have been designated as potentially "dangerous dogs" are required to register their dogs with the City of Auburn. The City contracts with King County Animal Control for a full-time animal control officer to serve within the city limits of Auburn. Police will determine if the household in question is registered.
- ***Does Auburn have year round classes available for emergency preparedness?***
Rebecca Adams gave an overview of several of the programs offered by the Emergency Management team, including Map Your Neighborhood, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and emergency preparedness classes. Map Your Neighborhood class helps residents know what resources are located right in their own neighborhoods by mapping out who has what skills, useful equipment and special needs. CERT class takes you through triage, disaster preparedness and cribbing. It is taught four times a year and is free. Emergency preparedness classes deal primarily with

helping citizens prepare for earthquakes, flooding, power outages and snow. She recommended those interested in any or all of these programs contact them directly at

- ***Does the City offer a volume discount for emergency preparedness kits?***
Rebecca responded that this was a good idea and said she would look into it.
- ***Is the City doing anything to persuade the waste management company to recycle glass?***
The Pierce County portion of Auburn is on a different contract than other parts of Auburn; the City is presently served by Allied, Waste Management and Murray's. Some day all of Auburn will be serviced by the same provider.

School District Related Questions/Comments

- ***Are there any plans for a new junior high school in Auburn?***
Rod Luke responded that the Auburn School Board recommended two years ago that two new elementary schools and a new middle school be built within the next five years.
- ***When are they starting the process to redraw the Auburn School District boundaries?***
Rod Luke said a new committee will start working on that soon. The last 10 years have been spent building new schools; the next 10 years will be spent renovating existing schools.

Development Related Questions/Comments

- ***What's happening with the property across the street from Walgreens?***
The property across from Walgreens is zoned commercial and we don't know what the owner plans to do with it at this time.
- ***Are we going to get a gas station up in Lakeland?***
The Mayor responded that evidently no company is willing to put one in yet.
- ***It seems like this year we've had more power outages than in the past.***
Mayor said he wasn't sure that we'd had more this year, but one of the reasons why we've had them recently is a lot of rain has soften the soil around roots of large trees that go down and take the power out lines.

Traffic Related Questions/Comments

- ***What is the City planning to do to slow traffic down along 62nd, especially at the intersection of 62nd and Perry where very few are going the speed limit and with the new Kersey development coming on line soon?***
The developer of the Kersey project and the City have worked together on developing a traffic plan for Evergreen, which the developer is required to complete before they can begin building houses. Mayor Lewis asked the group to use the maps we handed out to submit their suggestions about what should be done along 62nd to slow traffic down. We try to get input from the entire neighborhood first before we put together a plan. He also cautioned everyone to be careful what you ask for; you will be the ones living with the results.

The money the City receives from the PhotoSAFE program has been put into a special fund to support neighborhood traffic calming and the Council wanted to see results of the Eyman Initiative before we made plan to put in more traffic calming measures.

The reason the City of Auburn implemented the PhotoSAFE program was to reduce or eliminate the number of T-bone accidents in intersections, which has definitely been accomplished. The City doesn't actually make much money from the tickets once the City pays the organization responsible for the system and pays for the additional Court staff needed to process the tickets. Council had decided to put the money the City does keep into a designated fund to help cover the cost of our neighborhood traffic calming program. The City will continue to add intersections to the PhotoSAFE program as they have the funds and supporting statistics to warrant doing so.

Mayor Lewis shared that out of each family's property tax bill only 15.8% goes to the City; a majority of it goes to the School District and the State. Mayor also informed the group that contrary to what most people believe, traffic tickets don't produce much revenue for the City.

- ***When is 8th Street (Stewart Road) going to be completed?***

The City of Auburn dedicated the traffic impact fees from the Lakeland development to put in Phase 1 of Lake Tapps Parkway. Pierce County was supposed to put in Phase 2, which would complete the road across the valley, but they decided Sumner and Pacific needed to help pay for it too. Both cities agreed to help, but then Pierce County assigned them the largest portion of the cost, which neither City can afford to pay. Most users of the road are coming from Pierce County (Lake Tapps area, etc.) and Pierce County needs to pay the major portion of the cost. Our developers already paid their share.

Stewart Road is an issue all residents who live in Pierce County can assist with by signing one of the petitions being circulated by a group of citizens anxious to see this project completed. For more information you can contact Rob Dickey, a Lakeland HOA representative on the citizens committee.

- ***Could a crosswalk be put in at the corner of 64th St. and Lakeland Way?***

Mayor Lewis asked if they were willing to have a stop sign put in there; there has to be a stop sign there before the City can put in a crosswalk.

- ***Is a stop sign going to be put in where school crosswalk is located and when is the light going to be finished at Evergreen and Lakeland Hills Way?***

The new stoplight that's going in should help slow people down and make it easier for crossing guards to get people to stop for students crossing the street. Currently they're working on wiring and awaiting delivery of the poles. It takes awhile for poles to come in when they're ordered because there are very few companies who make them.

- ***Motorcycle a neighborhood nuisance on weekends.***

It was mentioned that there's a loud motorcycle speeding through the neighborhood usually between 7 and 9 a.m. on weekend mornings. They live in the 5300 block of Olive and drive in a big loop from Olive to 62nd to Perry to Evergreen to Lakeland. Assistant Chief Miller made note of this and said he'd have patrol check into it.

- ***No parking signs are posted on Nathan Street but people are parking there any way.***

People were urged to call 911 and report it.

- ***When does the City plan to resurface arterials such as A Street?***

The City realizes that A Street is bad, but it's much better than it was. The City only receives \$200,000 a year for maintenance of arterials and is joining with other cities to work with the State to try to identify other potential sources of revenue to replace what has been lost through the passage of various initiatives.

- ***Is there a way to synchronize the traffic lights better?***

The light at 41st & A Street will always be an issue because of the railroad bridge that keeps 41st Street from being widened.

- ***Can we get any of the radar signs installed in our neighborhood to slow traffic down?***

Transportation staff will determine if there's a speeding problem and proceed accordingly. New radar signs will be installed shortly along Evergreen Way SE to slow traffic down along that corridor.

- ***The exit coming out of McDonalds onto Lake Tapps Parkway is very unsafe.***

C-curb will be added on Lake Tapps Parkway to restrict left turns out of the shopping center in that location real soon. .

Police Related Questions/Comments

- ***What can you tell us about gang activity in Auburn?***

Auburn is very blessed because we haven't had nearly the amount and serious type of gang activity other communities have had. We have caught some gang members who live here but the gang activity doesn't take place here. There are some gang wannabes. We changed some laws making carrying graffiti tools against the law and kids under age 18 can't

purchase spray paint, etc. Up until recently it was up to citizens to remove the graffiti or be fined; our Council changed the laws so that they help the victims of graffiti instead of adding insult to injury. City staff recently saw a demo of a new machine to use against graffiti and will be sending a report and recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

- **Mayor Lewis explained how the 911 system works in Auburn.**

Residents were encouraged to report everything to 9-1-1. You should call 9-1-1 whenever you have an emergency, need to speak with an officer or file a report (our **online reporting system** at www.auburnwa.gov is available 24 hours a day for your convenience).

Auburn shares ownership of the 9-1-1 system and the calls go into a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making non-emergency calls. When you call 9-1-1 it will be answered by a "Call Receiver." The Call Receiver will determine whether or not your call is an emergency to be handled right away or to have an officer make contact with you to file a non-emergency report. They will ask questions which are specifically designed to obtain information so that the proper response can be taken for your call.

Residents are advised to call 9-1-1 for any emergency or non-emergency issue such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc. Please note: If calling from a cell phone you need to ask for an "Auburn Call Receiver."

Mayor Lewis pointed out that Police average response times for first priority calls are down to 3.01 minutes, which is very good.

- **Overview of Police Department and Block Watch program**

Officer Andy Gould explained how the Auburn Police Department functions and gave a brief overview of how Block Watch works. It's built on the concept of neighbors watching out for each other because you know better than anyone else who belongs in your neighborhood and who doesn't. If you think "maybe I should call 9-1-1 about this," you should. Residents were encouraged to call him if they want to set up a Block Watch.

Summary of Solutions Discussed/Action Items

- Requested crosswalk be painted at 64th street se & Lakeland Hills Way.
- Requests that parking restriction signs better delineate the parking zones on 64th SE between Lakeland Hills way and Nathan Ave SE.
- Requests sight distance obstructions be cleared at southeast corner of Lakeland Hills & 64th SE and Southwest corner 64th SE and Nathan Ave SE.
- Inquired if the City would offer a volume discount for emergency preparedness kits.
- Assistant Chief Miller will have patrol officers check into the motorcycle nuisance on weekends and a pitbull registration at the corner of Perry and 50th.

Community Services Team Contact Information:

- Duanna Richards, Community Services Manager, 253-931-3099 or drichards@auburnwa.gov
- Kirsten Reynolds, Community Services Project Assistant, 253-876-1964, or kreynolds@auburnwa.gov